

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A molding compound contains a reinforcing fiber, a non-fibrous filler, and an unsaturated polyester resin. The unsaturated polyester resin contains an unsaturated monomer as well as a polyester polymer. The polymer is a unsaturated polyester made from a hydroxyl component and a carboxylic component. The hydroxyl component contains both a monomeric diol or triol, and a polymeric polyol. The polymeric polyol is a hydroxyl-terminated polymer such as polyether or polyester diols or triols. The carboxylic component can be provided by an unsaturated carboxylic diacid, an unsaturated carboxylic anhydride, an unsaturated carboxylic diester or mixtures thereof. Molded articles are provided by compression or extrusion molding of a molding compound as described above. The articles are characterized by improved crack resistance, toughness, and surface appearance.

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